

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A gastropasty band (1) ~~formed by~~ comprising:  
a flexible strip (2) designed to be closed around the stomach of a patient by closure means (5, 6) towards the two ends (3, 4) of the flexible strip in order to reduce the diameter of the opening of the stoma, said flexible strip including an annular compression chamber (7) of adjustable volume connected by a catheter (9) to a device for adjusting the diameter of said annular compression chamber by injecting or withdrawing fluid, said annular compression chamber being defined by walls comprising a dorsal reinforcement (12) extended by lateral walls (13), ~~the band being characterized in that:~~

wherein [[·]] the dorsal reinforcement (12) is made out of a first elastomer material having predetermined hardness  $d_1$  on the Shore A scale; and

wherein [[·]] the lateral walls (13) are made out of a second elastomer material of the same kind as the first elastomer material but of predetermined hardness  $d_2$  on the Shore A scale ~~that is~~ such that  $d_2 < d_1$ , thereby obtaining ~~a one-piece~~ the annular compression chamber (7) of hardness on the Shore A scale that varies across its thickness.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the annular compression chamber (7) is obtained by an operation of overmolding the two elastomer materials, the lateral walls (13) being overmolded on the dorsal reinforcement (12).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to claim 1, ~~or claim 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the value of  $d_1$  lies in the range 65 to 85 on the Shore A scale, with the value of  $d_2$  lying in the range 25 to 45 on the Shore A scale.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the value of  $d_1$  is about 80 on the Shore A scale, and the value of  $d_2$  is about 30 on the Shore A scale.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a portion of the closure means (5, 6) is made out of the first elastomer material.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure means (5, 6) comprise female means (5A) secured to one end (3) of the flexible strip (12) to co-operate with male means (6) secured to the other end of the flexible strip, the female means being formed by a ring (5A) made out of the first elastomer material.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catheter (9) includes an endpiece (10) secured to one end of the flexible strip, said endpiece being overmolded on the catheter (9).

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to claim 7, characterized in that wherein the endpiece (10) is made out of the first elastomer material.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to ~~any one~~ of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the closure means (4, 5) (5, 6) are secured to the ~~end~~ ends (3, 4) of the flexible strip (2) and extend outwards from the strip from the dorsal reinforcement (12), the annular chamber (7) being terminated by two transverse sections (15, 16) that are substantially plane so as to bear against each other in the closed position of the band, thereby forming ~~an~~ the annular compression chamber (7) providing compression over the entire periphery of the band.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to ~~any one~~ of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the annular compression chamber (7) presents a cross-section that is substantially elliptical in shape.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to ~~any one~~ of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that it claim 1, wherein the gastropasty band presents shape memory that is substantially circular.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The gastropasty band according to ~~any one~~ of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the dorsal reinforcement (12) presents a shape that is substantially of channel section.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The gastropasty band according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the dorsal reinforcement (12) comprises a web (12A) and flanges (12B), the web (12B) of the dorsal reinforcement (12) is of (12A) having a thickness greater than the thickness of its the flanges (12B).

14. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a gastropasty band by injecting an elastomer material in a mold provided with at least one cavity having at least one core, the method ~~being characterized by the steps of;~~ comprising:

a) injecting a first elastomer material of predetermined hardness  $d_1$  on the Shore A scale in order to make at least ~~the~~ a dorsal reinforcement of the gastropasty band; and

b) overmolding at least on the dorsal reinforcement by injecting a second elastomer material of the same kind as the first elastomer material but of predetermined hardness  $d_2$  on the Shore A scale such that  $d_2 < d_1$ , in order to make the remaining portions of the gastropasty band and obtain an overmolded one-piece gastropasty band of varying hardness.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 14, characterized in that further comprising:

during step a), making a portion of ~~the~~ closure means of the band ~~is also made~~ out of the first elastomer material.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 14, ~~or claim 15, characterized in that~~ further comprising:

making a catheter endpiece ~~is also made~~ out of the second elastomer material.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

[[·]] during step a), injecting the first elastomer material ~~is injected~~ into a dorsal cavity having a dorsal reinforcement core placed therein;

~~-thereafter~~ withdrawing the dorsal reinforcement core supporting the dorsal reinforcement ~~is withdrawn and placed~~ placing it in a band recess; and

~~-and then step b) is performed~~ performing step b) to obtain the final band.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~claims 15 and 17,~~ claim 17, further comprising:

[[·]] during step a), making a portion of ~~the band~~ fixing means of the band is ~~made~~ by injecting the first material in a cavity for ring-shaped fixing means having a ring core placed therein;

~~-then~~ prior to step b), withdrawing the ring core supporting the ring is ~~withdrawn and placed~~ placing it in the said band cavity together with the dorsal reinforcing core ~~or that is to receive said dorsal reinforcing core.~~

19. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~claims 16 and 18,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 16, further comprising:

~~[[·]]~~ during step b), making the catheter endpiece ~~is made~~ by injecting the  
second elastomer material into a catheter cavity including a catheter;

~~-then removing~~ the catheter supporting the catheter endpiece; ~~is removed~~ and  
assembling said catheter endpiece ~~is assembled, e.g. by adhesive,~~ with the final  
gastroplasty band obtained at the end of step b).

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein assembling said  
endpiece with the gastroplasty band comprises applying an adhesive.